BAT MAN

50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 333
MAR.

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

LASER TARGET

PLUS:
ROBIN and CATWOMAN--
"SHANGHAIED"
ALONG WITH A SPECIAL
GUEST STAR!

APARO

FROM THE DIARY OF AL TALMÜN, 17TH CENTURY HISTORIAN:

"HE CAME TO US HANDS OPEN IN PEACE AND HE TOOK ALL WE OWNED. WHAT MEAGER FOODS WE FARMED, HE STOLE. WHAT WOMEN WE LOVED WERE TAKEN AND SEEN NEVER MORE. WE WERE A FEW, AND HE CAME WITH MANY WHO DESTROYED OUR LIVES, OUR HOMES, AND OUR HOPES. HE WAS A HEARTLESS SCOURGE AND WE WERE THE FIRST TO SUFFER HIS EVIL TOUCH."

China

India

Indian Ocean

ZWEEE!

ZWEEE!

ZWEEE!

THE LAZARUS AFFAIR

CONTINUING A FOUR-PART NOVEL FEATURING THE

BATMAN®

CREATED BY BOB KANE

CHAPTER TWO:

the CHINA SYNDROME!

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KATMANDU, NEPAL: HE RISES FROM HIS BAMBOO HAMMOCK AND *BOWS* TO HIS HOST. IT IS ALMOST TIME TO *RETIRE* FOR THE NIGHT.

HE LEAVES AND WALKS OFF TOWARD THE *MOUNTAINS*, AS HE HAS EVERY NIGHT FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS. HE HAS A *JOB* THAT MUST BE DONE...

TEN LONG YEARS. *OTHERS* WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP HOPE.

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT HE STARES AT THE GLOWING LIGHTS FROM THE VALLEY BELOW. THEN HE TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND BEGINS TO WORK...

HE FITS TOGETHER HIS *RADIO RECEIVER* BY TOUCH...

...STARING AT THE GREAT *CONSTELLATIONS* STARING AT HIM.

AT VARIOUS TIMES IN HIS LIFE, HE HAS SEEN HIMSELF AS *OPHIUCHUS*, THE SERPENT-HOLDER, OR *CEPHEUS*, THE KING, OR *CYGNUS*, THE SPREAD-WINGED SWAN...

BUT NOW HE FANTASIZES HIMSELF *AQUILA, THE EAGLE*... THE POWERFUL BIRD OF PREY, WAITING TO SWOOP UPON SOME UNSUSPECTING FOE...

FRAMED BY THE GLOW OF AQUILA'S BRIGHTEST STAR, *ALTAIR*, HE FITS HIS *HEADSET* IN PLACE...

...NEVER KNOWING THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND *BELOW* HAVE A NAME FOR THAT SHINING STAR THAT SUITS HIM FAR MORE...

THEY CALL ALTAIR "*THE FLYING VULTURE*" AND VULTURE-LIKE HE IS READY TO *POUNCE*...

...AS HIS RECEIVER PICKS UP A CERTAIN *WAVE-LENGTH* SILENCED FOR MORE THAN TEN LONG YEARS...

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

MONTFAUCON, SWITZERLAND: THE CITY IS RELATIVELY QUIET; THE NOISY SKIERS WILL NOT BE RIDING THE JURA MOUNTAINS FOR ANOTHER MONTH. STILL, THERE COMES A VISITOR...

MR. KRUGERRAND, WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE YOU.

COME... COME VIF US TO DER VAULT!

YOU RECEIVED MY INSTRUCTIONS THEN?

JA!

DER MONEY IS VAITING, IN SVISS FRANCS. YOU VISH TO EXCHANGE, EH?

FRANCS WILL BE FINE, BUT I HAVE TO GET INTO MY SAFE DEPOSIT BOX!

OF COURSE, SIR. AS YOUR TELEX STATED. BUT FIRST, PLACE YOUR HAND UPON THE IDENTIFICATION PLATE!

A FINGERPRINT SCAN?

MORE DAN FINGERPRINTS. DIS LASER SCAN CHECKS YOUR PATTERN, JA. BUT ALSO SKIN MOISTURE, AND DER PULSE RATE.

NO IMPOSTOR COULD HOPE TO PENETRATE SECURITY. AHH, YOU HAF BEEN CLEARED, OF COURSE.

SHALL VE ENTER, EH?

VE ARE PROUD OF OUR BANK, MR. KRUGERRAND. EFERYONE FROM DER U.S. MOB, TO DER COSA NOSTRA, TO DER M.I.K.E.-- DEY ALL BANK VIF US.

VE ARE DER CRIMINAL BANK EFEN DER CRIMINALS CANNOT ROB.

INSIDE THE VAULT...

I'D LIKE TO BE *ALONE* NOW, MR. GUSTAV. IF YOU DON'T MIND, THAT IS...

NEIN. I UNDERSTAND. IT IS ALWAYS *BEST* TO BE ALONE VEN ONE IS ABOUT TO *DIE!*

WHAT?

GUSTAV SMILES AS HIS HAND PULLS *DOWN* THE RAISED *LEVER.*

SUDDENLY, THERE IS THE HARSH *WHOOSH* OF WARM *WIND...*

WHAT IN THE WORLD? THE *FLOOR?*

DER *LASER SCAN* REVEALED YOU TO BE AN *IMPOSTOR,* MY FRIEND, AN IMPOSTOR VE VERE *PREPARED* FOR, EH--*BATMAN?*

YOU SHOULD NOT HAF IMPERSONATED A MAN VE KNEW TO BE RECENTLY *DEAD!*

WHOOSH!

YOU KNEW? HOW?

VE HAF OUR VAYS. NOW, LISTEN--DIS BANK VAS BUILT ABOVE A DEEP *VOLCANO.* SHOULD YOU DROP, YOU VILL MOST DEFINITELY PLUNGE TO YOUR DOOM.

AND, OF COURSE, VE HAF METHODS OF *ASSURING* THAT YOU FALL.

CLICK!

I HAF ACTIVATED DER *HEAT SENSORS.* VERY SOON DER VALLS VILL BECOME A *SCORCHING FOUR HUNDRED DEGREES!*

YOU VILL LET GO THEN. YOU VILL FALL THEN.

AND YOU SHALL *DIE* THEN.

GOOD DAY, BATMAN!

CONTINUED ON 35¢ PAGE FOLLOWING.

ONE THING MORE, BATMAN. SHOULD YOU *ATTEMPT* AN ESCAPE, MY MEN VILL *SHOOT* YOU. EITHER VAY, YOU *DIE*, EH?

HEAT'S INCREASING... STARTING TO *BURN* MY HANDS!

BUT THERE MAY STILL BE TIME ENOUGH TO *ESCAPE!*

YOU LET GO?

DEN YOU'VE MERELY *SAVED* US DER TROUBLE OV *KILLING YOU!*

NOT EXACTLY, FRIEND...

I WAS FALLING TO GET SOME *MOMENTUM*--

--AND I NEEDED THAT...

...TO DO *THIS!*

SPLAMM!!

MY BEST CHANCE IS TO GET THE BLAZES *OUT OF HERE!*

BWEE!

BEEOW!

AND THE WAY OUT IS THROUGH *YOU!*

V-VAIT-- *AGHHHH!!*

SPTOK!

NO WAY TO GET DOWN THIS SLOPE WITHOUT SKIS, AND I DON'T THINK I CAN *CONVINCE* THEM TO LET ME TAKE THIS *CABLE CAR* BACK TO TOWN--

BWING!

I'M AFRAID THAT LEAVES ME ONLY *ONE PAINFUL ALTERNATIVE!*

AND THAT'S SLIDING DOWN THE *CABLE ITSELF-- ARGHHH!*

BULLET!... GRAZED MY RIBS!

UNHHH ...SIDE FEELS AWFUL... *WARM... THROBBING.* BLAST...I'M *BLEEDING!*

BUT I'LL FEEL A LOT *WORSE* IF I DON'T MAKE IT ALL THE WAY DOWN!

ZIP

ZING!

HE VILL NOT GET AVAY...NOT VIF YOU ON YOUR *ROCKET SKIS!*

REMEMBER, DESE *LASER RIFLES* VILL KILL ON *CONTACT.* DO NOT MISS!

DER BATMAN MUST BE STOPPED!

LASERS?

ZWEE!

ZWEE!

ZWEE!

...UNGH...CAPE...BEGINNING TO *BURN THROUGH* FROM THE FRICTION... AND MY SIDE IS *KILLING ME*...

...CAN'T HOLD ON... NOT WITHOUT SLICING MY *HAND* IN TWO...

ZWEE

WELL, THAT'S *ONE* PROBLEM I DON'T HAVE TO *WORRY* ABOUT ANY MORE!

SKIK!

ZWEE

CABLE'S GONE--

--WHICH MAY BE THE *FIRST BREAK* I'VE HAD ALL DAY!

ZWEE

IF I CAN TIME THIS OUT JUST RIGHT!

AND SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT'S *NOT* GOING TO BE A PROBLEM!

KAS--?

HELLO, FRIEND -- MIND IF I BORROW YOUR *SKIS*?

ZLAM!

NO, I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D *OBJECT*!

ZWEE!

THERE...! ARGHH! FORGOT MY *RIBS*... THEY'RE STILL MURDER...

...AND THERE MUST BE A *DOZEN LASER RIFLEMEN* AFTER ME...

A DOZEN AGAINST ONE HALF-DEAD BATMAN-- ODDS SEEM ABOUT *EVEN*!

ESPECIALLY SINCE MY *UTILITY BELT* HAS THE PERFECT *ESCAPE TRICK!*

ZWEE!

ZWEE!

SMOKE BOMB SHOULD KEEP THEM *BLINDED* FOR A FEW SECONDS...

BLAM!

...AND THAT'S *ALL* THE TIME I'LL NEED!

AND, LESS THAN FOUR SECONDS LATER...

HE IS *GONE!* BUT DAT IS *IMPOSSIBLE!*

DERE IS NO PLACE TO *HIDE*, NO PLACE TO *RUN!*

VE CANNOT RETURN VIFOUT DER BATMAN. GUSTAV VILL HAF OUR *HEADS!*

KEEP SEARCHING -- DAT WAY... DOWN *DERE!*

HE MUST BE SOMEVERE, AND VE *VILL* FIND HIM!

DON'T BE SO *CERTAIN*, MY FRIEND...

DON'T BE SO CERTAIN OF *ANYTHING!*

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

FOR HOURS HE LIES IN THE COLD, *NUMBING* HIS SIDE TO THE PAIN. FINALLY, AS HIS STRENGTH RETURNS, THE BATMAN BEGINS THE LONG TREK BACK TO HIS *HOTEL*...

NOK NOK!

WHO IS THERE?

TALIA! LET ME IN!

I... DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I COULD HAVE *WITHSTOOD* THE PAIN...

SIT, MY LOVE... ON THE *BED*...

THIS *SALVE* MY FATHER INVENTED WILL *HEAL* YOU IN MINUTES.

I HOPE SO. I'LL NEED MY *STRENGTH* FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD.

THERE WILL BE TIME TO *WORRY* OF THE FUTURE SOON ENOUGH. BUT FOR NOW YOU MUST *RELAX*... YOU NEED *COMFORTING*.

I CAN GIVE YOU ALL YOU NEED... AND *MORE*.

TALIA, YOU *TEMPT* ME...

...BUT THERE'S TOO MUCH TO DO. AND FRANKLY, I DON'T WANT ANOTHER *RELATIONSHIP* RIGHT NOW.

THE LAST FEW HAVE BEEN TOO... *PAINFUL*.

AND I CAN'T PERMIT MORE PAIN TO *CLOUD* MY JUDGMENT. NOT NOW.

I WAS *RIGHT* ABOUT ONE THING... *GREGORIAN FALSTAFF* USED THAT BANK.

TROUBLE IS, I DISGUISED MYSELF AS A *DEAD MAN*-- HIS ASSISTANT, KRUGERRAND MUST HAVE DIED AFTER WE LEFT GOTHAM LAST NIGHT.

OH...?

FALSTAFF WAS OBVIOUSLY *HIRED* TO RUIN BRUCE WAYNE. BUT WHY? *WHY?*

WE TAKE OFF *TOMORROW*, TO MEET OUR NEXT CONTACT. HIS NAME IS *TORRENTS*..

AND HE LIVES ABOARD A *CHINESE JUNK* IN *DEEP BAY, HONG KONG.*

A JUNK CALLED *FÊNG-WEI... THE PHOENIX!*

BUT THAT'S *TOMORROW*. TONIGHT, WE'LL FIRST DINNER

AND THEN...?

THEN WE'LL DISCUSS THAT *COMFORTING* YOU MENTIONED EARLIER

CHEERS!

AND LOVE!

BANG BANG BANG!

MACHINE GUN! TALIA-- DUCK!

DOESN'T MATTER WHERE WE ARE...

...THEY *ALWAYS* SEEM TO FIND US!

AND FRANKLY I'M FED UP WITH BEING *HUNTED!*

GRUNT!

MISTER, THE HUNT ENDS *RIGHT NOW!!*

UNGH!!

TRYING TO KILL *ME*, FRIEND? WELL IT SEEMS YOUR *BUDDY* GOT IN YOUR WAY!

BUT HE WON'T GET IN *ANNE'S*

MOVE ASIDE, *SHVINE*, UND LET ME PASS

AGCHH! MY NEB!

TALIA--*STOP HIM!* DON'T LET HIM JUM--

NOTHING WE CAN DO HERE TALIA

LET'S GET *GOING!*

WHOEVER SENT THOSE KILLERS KNOWS MY SECRET IDENTITY.

WHICH MEANS I CAN'T ENTER HONG KONG AS BRUCE WAYNE...NOT WITHOUT INVITING MORE TROUBLE THAN I WANT...

AT LEAST UNTIL I CAN GET TO THE [redacted] OF THINGS.

A DISGUISE PERHAPS?

NO. IF THEY KNOW BRUCE [illegible] THEY MAY BE [illegible] ANY DISGUISE.

THERE'S ONLY ONE ROUTE I CAN TAKE--AND THAT'S THROUGH THE MOST HEAVILY GUARDED BORDER IN THE WORLD THROUGH RED CHINA HERSELF!

[redacted] HER, TOO BEAUTIFUL TO BE WASTED WORRYING

WE TALKED ABOUT COMFORTING...

[redacted] NOW IS THE BEST TIME!

[illegible]

YOU [illegible] TO COME WITH ME [illegible]

[illegible] I WOULD DO, MY LOVE.

THE TRIP THROUGH CHINA IS LONG AND LONELY, AND I KNOW SOME SECRET WAYS TO *CROSS* THE CHINESE BORDER.

IT'S BEST THAT I COME

ALL THE BETTER TO AVOID CHINA'S VIGILANT *RADAR PATROL*

SMALL, HIDDEN AIR FIELD FOR REFUELING...

WE CLIMB UP THERE ATOP WUTONG SHAN, OR THE CHINESE PARASOL TREE MOUNTAIN.

BUT TO THE PEASANTS TRYING TO FLEE THE MAINLAND, IT IS BEST KNOWN AS *CHINA MOUNTAIN!*

IT IS NOT HEALTHY TO [illegible] CAPTURE BY THE BORDER PATROL!

TO GO BY LAND IS A *MISTAKE*. "THE ROYAL [illegible] ETS" OF THE BRITISH ARMY *PATROL* THE 17 MILE BORDER. AND THE [illegible] "GURKA RIFLES" CAPTURE AL[illegible] *HALF* OF ALL INFILTRATORS.

EACH NIGHT *HUNDREDS* OF REFUGEES TRY TO ESCAPE [illegible] ABOUT HALF GET CAPTURED, SOME GET THROUGH.

WILL GET THROUGH!

THEY *SWIM* A MILE ALONG THE *SHAM CHUN RIVER* HEADING SOUTH AND WEST TO THE *DEEP BAY*...

KEEP LOW. RED CHINESE *HELICOPTERS* ROUTINELY PATROL THE AREA...

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.. GET *DOWN!*

THERE IS NO TIME TO SEARCH FOR THEIR *REBREATHER UNITS*, SO THE TWO SIMPLY DIVE, *HOLDING* THEIR BREATH

BRIGHT *FLYING*

THEY'LL BE BACK. WE HAVEN'T MUCH WAR.

THE CHINESE ARE TRYING TO *PREVENT* ESCAPES?

NOT REALLY. ACTUALLY THEY DON'T MUCH CARE WHO GOES TO HONG KONG, BECAUSE THAT CITY IS ONLY *LEASED* TO THE BRITISH

MUCH OF IT WILL *REVERT* TO CHINESE [illegible] IN 1997.

THE CHINESE 42ND ARMY PATROLS THE BORDER MORE OUT OF CURIOSITY.

YOU SEEM [illegible] TA-MA.

I [illegible] MY LOVE. I OPERATED MY FATHER'S [illegible] HERE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

AND WHAT [illegible] OF BUSINESS WAS IT?

IT IS [illegible] YOU DO NOT KNOW.

SWARMS SLITHER THROUGH [illegible] AND MASSING, DRAWN TO THE WRITHING LIMBS. THEY ARE *HUNGRY*, AND THIS AREA [illegible] *TEEM* THICK WITH TWO-LEGGED [illegible].

DID I *NEGLECT* TO MENTION? THIS AREA IS *INFESTED* WITH THEM!

[illegible] THAT [illegible] BLOOD [illegible] [illegible] TO HIM

WE SHOULD BE GONE BEFORE THEY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR *DINNER!*

TALIA-- OVER THERE... *MORE CHOPPERS!*

BRITISH ARMY CORPS! THEY FOLLOW THE SHAM CHUN DOWN THROUGH TO MAI PO

THEN IT'S TIME TO *DIVERT* THEIR ATTENTIONS...

[illegible] MACKAY'S [illegible] REJOINDER [illegible] FLUTTERING [illegible] WITH [illegible] ...

SIR, *TWO FIGURES* SWIMMING BELOW.

WE'LL PICK UP THOSE TWO "I-I'S"* PRONTO!

THEY'RE NOT MOVING, AND I DON'T THINK THE *SHARKS* GOT 'EM.

FLIP 'EM OVER AND LET'S TAKE A *LOOKSEE!*

"I-I'S" .. ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS - PAUL.

MY GOD! *PING PONG BALLS*... THEY WERE INSIDE TO KEEP THE CLOTHING FLOATING!

SOMEONE *KNEW* WHAT HE WAS DOING, TONEY.

"THEY GOT US TO LOOK HERE WHILE THEY ESCAPED THEY COULD BE *ANYWHERE* BY NOW."

ONCE WE'RE PAST THIS FENCE, WE'LL BE *SAFE* INSIDE HONG KONG.

THEN IT'S TO *THE PHOENIX*...

AND THAT'S *ONE* PLACE I'M GOING *ALONE!*

CAPTAIN TORRENTS? I'M BRUCE WAYNE...

AH, OF COURSE CHAP THE AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE, NOT?

COME, COME... THIS IS A RARE 'O' OR, MR. WAYNE.

YOU WILL WAIT 'ERE, EH? I 'AVE SOME HASTY LAST MINUTE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO

DON'T RUSH. THERE'S TIME.

RIGHT! RIGHT! I WILL BE BACK SOON, EH?

HE'S ALMOST TOO PLEASED TO SEE ME, AND THAT MEANS THIS IS A TRAP.

BUT WHO KNEW I WAS COMING HERE?

HE FALLS TO THE FLOOR UNCONSCIOUS, IN AS DARK AS THE GATHERING NIGHT...

GAH!

...KOFF... KOFF... NO GOOD... SEEPING... THROUGH...

UHH... CAN'T FIGHT... CAN'T... UHHHH...

WHAM!

17

NEXT: [illegible]

CATCH UP ON CATWOMAN AND ROBIN IN [illegible]

AND [illegible] -- THE COMIC YOU CREATE--BEGINS AS A FREE BONUS IN [illegible] #272--ON [illegible]!

BATMAN and the CATWOMAN

SHANGHAIED!

THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS

..YOU GOT T, RON AMNESTY FOR TURNING STATE'S EVIDENCE.

AMNESTY, HUH? I GET OFF-SCOT FREE? SURE, FOR THAT [illegible]!

YOU CAN'T, RON! WE WERE FIGHTING TO STOP WAYNE FROM EXPLOITING US!

WISE UP, JERK! I COULDN'T CARE IF WAYNE WAS RIPPIN' OFF THE WHOLE FREAKIN' CITY!

I GOT PAID CASH TO LEAD THAT RAID ON HIS BUILDIN'!

PAID

THAT BUSINESS ABOUT WAYNE [illegible] IS A LIE?

BELIEVE IT, JERK... SET UP BY FALCONETTI! HE WANTED WAYNE RUINED--AND HE WANTED YOUR GANG [illegible] OUTTA THE WAY!

WE STOPPED YOUR DAD... WE'RE GONNA SKRAG YOU, TOO.

YOU SLOWED ME DOWN... YOU DIDN'T STOP ME!

LUCIUS!? YOU'RE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL?

DAD?

BEFORE YOU SAY ANYTHING, TIM, I WANT YOU TO KNOW • I LOVE YOU.

I DON'T AGREE WITH WHAT YOU DID, BUT YOU ARE MY SON...

...AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU'RE WELCOME AT HOME...I... I WANT YOU AT HOME.

THINGS HAVE CHANGED, DAD... I DON'T THINK IT'LL BE THE SAME!

THINGS ARE ALWAYS CHANGING...AND WE HAVE TO CHANCE WITH THEM.

I DIDN'T SAY IT WOULD BE EASY, SON.. I JUST WANT US TO BE A FAMILY... AGAIN!

YOU GOT THE INFO WHEN DO I GET OUT?

WHEN COMMISSIONER GORDON IS READY!

ROBIN THE COMMISSIONER WANTS TO SEE YOU.

YOU GO, I WOULDN'T BE COMFORTABLE

AND, SHORTLY,

... IT CAME OVER THE SPECIAL RADIO BAND THE BATMAN CONFIDENTIALLY GAVE TO ME

THIS KING FARADAY WANTS YOU... IN SHANGHAI ABOUT THE BATMAN!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SON WHAT'S GOING ON?

I DON'T KNOW, COMMISSIONER, BUT I SURE AS BLAZES INTEND TO FIND OUT!

EVEN AT SUPERSONIC SPEEDS, IT TAKES THE BATPLANE MORE THAN NINE HOURS TO CROSS THE ASIAN PLAINS TO THE HEART OF CENTRAL CHINA...

FARADAY? I TANGLED WITH HIM ONCE, ROBIN... IN GENEVA. HE'S COLD.

LIKE ICE, CATWOMAN. THE MAN WON'T ADMIT HIS MISTAKES!

BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY FALSTAFF WAS AFTER BRUCE WAYNE, OR WHAT TALIA HAS TO DO WITH THIS.

SELINA, I DIDN'T ASK YOU BEFORE, BUT YOU WALKED OUT WHEN YOU SAW TALIA WITH BATMAN.

AND YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY.

PERHAPS I FELT... HURT. JEALOUS...? I DON'T KNOW.

SOMETIMES I THINK I'M BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.

SOME TIME LATER THE BATPLANE LANDS, THEN A TRAIN RIDE CARRIES THEM TO THE CENTER OF SHANGHAI...

THERE YOU ARE... ONE GOOD THING ABOUT PEACE WE GOT YOU THROUGH CUSTOMS IN RECORD TIME!

HMMM. DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BRINGING A FRIEND WITH YOU.

MR. FARADAY, I TRUST YOU EVEN LESS THAN YOU TRUST ME. BUT WE ARE BOTH HERE FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

I SUGGEST WE KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP AS BUSINESSLIKE AS POSSIBLE

SUITS ME, SISTER!

LET'S GET TO THE POINT, ROBIN. TEN YEARS AGO, MY PARTNER [illegible] TEMPLETON, [illegible] AND VANISHED [illegible]

VANISHED! AS IN *KIDNAPPED.* AT LEAST I THOUGHT SO. ANYWAY, ARCHER AND I HAD AN *AGREEMENT*...

IF EITHER OF US DISAPPEARED MYSTERIOUSLY, WE'D TRY TO GET BACK SOME WORD.

WE HAD A SECRET *RADIO BAND.* TWO NIGHTS AGO, AFTER TEN LONG YEARS, THAT BAND STARTED CLATTERING LIKE *GENE* KRUPA'S DRUMS!

FOLLOWED THE SIGNAL FROM KATMANDU, TRACED IT TO THE *INDIAN OCEAN*... AND TO A CERTAIN *INFLATABLE RAFT!*

PULL OVER TO THAT *TEMPLE,* DRIVER.

ANYWAY, ON THE RAFT WAS SCRAWLED "*BATMAN!*" I TRIED CONTACTING HIM ... BUT I SETTLED FOR *YOU!*

I DID SOME CHECKING... FOUND A *PIGEON* AND HE'S WAITING FOR US HERE.

HAHAHAHA!

YOU HAVE A WAY OF *ENDEARING* YOURSELF, FARADAY!

THANKS, KID!

A NOMAN, A RAFT, A PIGEON, A CLUE! LOOK!

IT'S CLUE ONE! [illegible]

AND I DON'T HAVE TO GUESS WHODUNIT, CATWOMAN?

I'M *WAY AHEAD* OF YOU, BUCKO! LET'S *GO!*

THEIR *FOOTSTEPS* ECHO THROUGH THE TEMPLE AS THE GRINNING KILLER TAKES THE *STEPS* UP TO THE ROOF THREE AT A TIME. THEN...

NOWHERE FOR HIM TO GO. WE'VE GOT 'IM!

BE CAREFUL... I DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE'S *TURNING!*

HEEYAAHHH!

I HAD A *HUNCH* HE'D DO THAT. I'VE *BEEN* HERE BEFORE...

...I KNEW MOST CHINESE ASSASSINS USED *KUNG FU!*

OOOFF!

SOMETHING ROBIN OBVIOUSLY *DIDN'T* KNOW!

CATWOMAN!?!

GO LIMP!

JUST BE PREPARED TO CATCH ON TO *ME!*

GOT YOU!

PRAY YOU DO. IT'S GOING TO BE A *ROUGH STOP!*

CATWOMAN UNLEASHES HER *CAT-O-NINE TAILS* ...ONTO THE TELEPHONE WIRE.

AS THEY FALL GROUNDWARD...

HOLD ON, ROBIN!

FOR DEAR LIFE, CATWOMAN!

MAN, I WOULDN'T WANNA GO THROUGH *THAT* AGAIN!

I'M JUST GLAD WE'RE WORKING ON THE *SAME SIDE* NOW!

YOU AND ME *BOTH.* NOW, LET'S GET BACK TO FARADAY!

FARADAY'S GONE!

BUT NOT WITHOUT A STRUGGLE, I GUESS. THIS IS HIS GLOVE!

WHAT NOW? HE NEVER TOLD US WHY HE CALLED ME HERE!

CATWOMAN SMILES: "I KNOW A *FENCE* WHO KNOWS *EVERYTHING* THAT GOES ON IN THE FAR EAST. HE'S OUR NEXT STOP!"

NOK! NOK!

HONG KONG...

WHO THERE?

TELL YOUR MASTER, CHIN HO, THAT SELINA KYLE WISHES TO DO *BUSINESS* WITH HIM.

THE MASTER WILL SEE YOU.

THIS IS AN *OPIUM DEN!* WHAT WERE YOU *DOING* WITH THESE PEOPLE?

FENCING JEWELS! I *NEVER* DEALT WITH DRUGS! THEY ALWAYS *DISGUSTED* ME!

MY WORK DEMANDS *REALITY!* I NEVER UNDERSTOOD LIVING A *LIE!*

SELINA! ENTER THE HUMBLE HOME OF *CHIN HO!* YOU ARE A MOST WELCOME GUEST!

ANOTHER OF YOUR, EH... *TOM-CATS*, SELINA? A LITTLE *YOUNG* FOR YOU, ISN'T HE?

I'M NOT HERE TO DISCUSS MY *LOVE-LIFE*, CHIN. I WANT *INFORMATION!*

YOU EITHER *HAVE* IT OR CAN *GET* IT!

ALWAYS *BUSINESS*, SELINA. YOUR TROUBLE IS NOT KNOWING HOW TO *ENJOY* LIFE!

FIRST WE DRINK SOME FINE *TEA*, THEN WE TALK, *SU SAN!*

AS CATWOMAN EXPLAINS...

...WE NEED FALSTAFF'S BOSS. HE'S MOST LIKELY THE ONE WHO ALSO ORDERED KING FARADAY'S *ABDUCTION!*

A PUZZLE, HMM. YOU DRINK WHILE CHIN THINKS. DRINK UP, SELINA!

YOU'RE *PUSHING* ON THE TEA, CHIN...WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH...EH--?

OBOY, SUDDENLY I FEEL *TIRED* ALL OVER.

ALL I WANT TO DO IS *SLEEP!*

IT'S A *TRAP!* THE TEA'S *DRUGGED!*

DRUGGED...?

YOU SAW THROUGH MY GAME, EH? YOU WERE ALWAYS OBSERVANT!

ASSASSINS! TO YOUR MASTER-- *NOW!!*

AIIIEEE! *DIE, WOMAN!*

NOT A CHANCE, FRIEND... AND CERTAINLY NOT BY *YOUR* *HAND!*

ROBIN'S TOO DAZED TO FIGHT...

OOOFF!

IT'S DIFFICULT ENOUGH KEEPING MYSELF ALIVE...

...BUT I'VE GOT TO HELP ROBIN!

YOU HONOR YOUR MASTER, THE BOY IS *OURS!*

SWAKK!

NO! YOU CAN'T HAVE HIM!

SELINA, YOURS IS NOT TO ISSUE ORDERS...

ALAS, YOURS IS ONLY TO-- *DIE!!*

AGGHHH!

FWAKK!

YOU HAVE DONE WELL. NOW, TAKE THEM TO THE *DRAGON ROOM!*

I WISH TO PLAY WITH THESE TWO BEFORE *DISPOSING* OF THEM!

IT IS AN INTERMINABLE TIME LATER BEFORE THE TWO AWAKEN, BUT WHEN THEY DO, THEY BOTH WISH THEY WERE STILL *UNCONSCIOUS*...

YEARS AGO, DEAR SELINA, YOU INTERFERED WITH *MY DRUG TRAFFICKING!* YOU CALLED ME NAMES QUITE *VILE!*

NOW YOU SHALL SEE HOW *TRUE* THOSE NAMES WERE!

INJECT THEM WITH ENOUGH *COCAINE* THAT EVEN THE LORD HIMSELF WOULD BE HELPLESS TO QUIET THEIR *PAIN!*

NO!!!

NEEDLESS TO SAY: *TO BE CONTINUED!*